

WBP Group Chairs Meeting 15
Focus: Nature Recovery Plan
9 July 2015, Welsh Government Building, Aberystwyth

Attending:

Matthew Quinn, WG (Chair)
Dai Harris, WG
Stephen Bladwell, RSPB (Species Expert Group Chair)
Charles Morgan, RSPB (Upland Ecosystem Group Chair)
Jan Sherry, NRW (Lowland Grassland & Heathland Ecosystem Group Co-chair)
Chris Tucker, NRW (Woodland Ecosystem Group Chair)
Pete Frost, NRW (Urban Ecosystem Group Chair)
Tristan Hatton-Ellis, NRW (Freshwater Ecosystem Group Chair & Wetland Ecosystem Group Rep)
Clare Burrows, NRW (Enclosed Farmland Ecosystem Group Chair)
Angus Garbutt, CEH (Coastal Ecosystem Group Chair)
Dave Thomas, WG (INNS Group Rep)
Tracey Lovering, WBP/NRW (WBP Group Chairs Co-ordinator/ WBP Evidence Gaps Project Lead)
Tom Henderson, WG

Apologies:

Gill Bell, MCS (Marine Ecosystem Group Chair)
Pete Jones, NRW (Wetland Ecosystem Group Chair)
Helen Buckingham, NT ((Lowland Grassland & Heathland Ecosystem Group Co-chair)

NOTES

1. Future Generations Bill draft guidance is to be made available September (MQ)
2. FG Bill Indicators time-frame– consultation 2nd half of year; publish beginning April 2016 at latest.
3. EB target – process by which Chairs can feed into this. WG don't feel need for targets in this.
4. WBSB met last week, previously in February 2015.
5. Announcements re. RDP expected week beginning 13 July 2015.
6. Position statements will be produced by Nature Recovery Plan Task & Finish Groups. These will provide detailed actions and costings.
7. Our next WBP Chairs meeting is to be held in October 2015 (See below):

WBP Chairs Meeting – October 2015

Focus: Chairs to provide mapped action priorities and expert advice to Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board, enabling the development of costed targeted biodiversity action, delivered through Wales' Nature Recovery Plan programme.

WBP ECOSYSTEM GROUP WORK REQUIRED PRIOR TO OCT 2015 MEETING
(See Action 1.1 & 1.2):

Action 1.1 Priority areas are to be mapped, and specific actions and requirements outlined; as completed previously for the *Priority Mapping* work (led by Jan Sherry). Existing Priority Maps, and associated guidance will inform the selection of these areas, but current information, threats and considerations (such as impacts of Climate Change), and consideration of greatest gains to be achieved will inform final selection of areas, and the specific actions outlined for each.

All **Ecosystem Groups** will be required to re-visit their priority maps and associated guidance and data, to ensure these are up-to-date and represent Group priorities. We will overlay priority maps to consider where greatest gains may be achieved; identify where conflicts between group priorities may arise; or where discrete actions provide for a small area but result in high biodiversity gain. We will also consider where this process results in gaps in action for some habitats/species and include this information in final guidance.

Action 1.2 N.B. **Species Expert** and **INNS Groups** have not previously provided Priority Mapping data. These Groups need to consider where, and what priority action is required re. species/habitat/ecosystem action across Wales, in relation to their Group's priorities. This data will be incorporated within October meeting work.

AOB

Notification of SER World Conference on Ecological Restoration 23-27 August 2015, Manchester <http://www.ser.org/programs/world-conference> - (TL)

WBP GROUP CHAIRS MEETING 15 - ACTIONS

No.	Action	Who	By
New Actions 9 July 2015			
1.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Next WBP Chairs meeting to be arranged for October 2015 – Focus: Priority actions required in specific areas for inclusion in Nature Recovery PlanAll to complete Group work prior to October meeting. N.B. Species Expert and INNS Groups have not previously provided Priority Mapping data. These Groups need to consider where, and what priority action is required re. species/ habitat /ecosystem action across Wales, in relation to their Group's priorities. This data will be incorporated within October	TL All Ecosystem/ Species/ INNS Chairs/ Groups	-

	meeting work.		
2.	Circulate Core funding list http://gov.wales/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2015/150529-22m-of-funding-for-environment-and-sustainable-development-organisations-in-wales/?lang=en	TL	Complete
3.	Circulate LIFE N2K Report, as provided to WBSB; also LIF Cardiff workshop outcomes	TL/CLR	
4.	Re- circulate WBSB5 - Paper 3 Wales Biodiversity Framework & WBSB Terms of Reference	TL	
5.	Circulate Shaun Russell's Resilience Workshop Write-up.	TL	
7.	Resilience Workshop – academics - suggest Dan Foreman (Swansea Uni) to Shaun	TL	
8.	Provide suggestions for WBP Conference key note speaker to Sean McHugh	TL	Complete
9.	Circulate the Delivery Framework for Sustainable management of Natural Resources	DH	
10.	Arrange WBP Chairs meeting visit to NRW Rhondda trial area – March 2016	TL	
Carried forward actions from Feb 2014			
11.	WBP Groups to provide advice to technical side of 3 NRW trial projects including the Dyfi. Contact: Patrick Green ¹	All WBP Groups/Chairs	Ongoing
12.	Matthew to discuss with Ceri whether NRW can re-instate Upland Ecologist post.	MQ	
On-going actions for Chairs (Standing items for Group meeting agendas)			
13.	Group Membership: Update Group membership details and send to Gemma Light ² and cc TL ³		All Group Chairs
14.	Evidence Gaps Project: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/WBP-Evidence-Gaps-Project All Chairs to share feedback on evidence gaps table with their Groups, provided by Prof Mike Bruford (See columns I.J.K in Nov V2 <i>Register of Evidence Gaps</i> and: 1) Address comments/follow up information/links attached. This may require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussing specific gaps with new contacts/links as suggested; • revising the gap question in light of existing evidence/papers Mike has directed you to; • Revising the question (if suited to research) following the guidelines given to <i>Formulating research questions</i> (on 		All Group Chairs

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	<p>Project webpage).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking down a large scale gap into component sub questions that may suit separate linked projects. <p>2) Re-visit Group priority evidence gaps and highlight these within the evidence gaps register (red=high, orange=medium, yellow=low).</p> <p>3) Agree your research project Group lead per high priority evidence gap (if suited to research); lead to develop & submit a completed Project Proposal per research project to TL²</p>	<p>All Group Chairs</p> <p>All Group Chairs</p>
15.	<p>WBP Group web-pages: Secretariat/Chairs to update Group pages on WBP website⁴. Populate with Group members list, meeting agendas/actions/work programmes/projects including REF funded/BAP habitats covered by Group/priority mapping/contact details and useful links. Send page updates to Sean McHugh⁵.</p>	All Group Chairs
16.	<p>Priority Mapping:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Groups to arrange opportunities to engage locally with biodiversity partnerships/networks/forums to share Priority Mapping data and seek opportunities to deliver action locally and strategically. Species Expert Group to be invited to provide representation at any event arranged. Secretariat to copy Tracey into arrangements. 2. Check whether amendments required to either area or actions listed on Group's Priority Mapping dataset. Delegated lead to collate any changes and provide completed final revised GIS maps, and associated actions, to Jan Sherry⁶ 	All Group Chairs
17.	<p>Arranging meetings: Secretariat to provide dates, agendas, actions, updates for/from all Group meetings to WBP team⁷ and WG Biodiversity Policy team⁸.</p>	All WBP Group Chairs

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⁴ www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Ecosystems--Species-Expert-Groups

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